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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8474
INFO RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 1807
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000060

SIPDIS

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EUR/NCE FOR LABONTE AND FICHTE, OSD FOR SADOWSKA, USNATO
FOR SHEEHAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/22/2017
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [EZ](#)
SUBJECT: CZECH PLANS FOR THE JANUARY 26 NATO FOREIGN
MINISTERIAL

REF: A. STATE 7434

[1](#)B. 06 PRAGUE 1487

Classified By: Political Officer Brian Greaney
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff met January 23 with MFA Security Policy
Director Veronika Smigolova to discuss Czech plans for the
January 26 NATO foreign ministerial in Brussels. The meeting
followed up on delivery of Ref A demarche to Deputy Foreign
Minister Tomas Pojar by CFC-A Commander Lieutenant General
Karl Eikenberry on January 22 (To be reported septel).

[1](#)2. (C) Smigolova said in Brussels the Czechs will highlight
the following contributions:

-- A plan to lead a PRT at Pol-E-Khomri beginning in 2008,
taking over from Hungary. Although planning is ongoing, there
is general acceptance that the PRT will incorporate a
significant interagency civilian component with funding to
undertake reconstruction and development projects. The PRT is
also likely to have Czech helicopter assets.

-- A plan to stage a 6-month deployment of a military
hospital in Kabul, starting in Spring 2007.

-- A donation of between 10 and 14 helicopters, after
refurbishment funded by NATO.

-- A donation of 20,000 assault rifles and 650 machine guns.

-- A reduction in caveats.

[1](#)3. (C) Smigolova said that the Czechs have already removed
one of the caveats that limited the deployment of forces from
Kabul International Airport to other areas. Despite prodding,
Smigolova said the Czechs would be unable to remove a caveat
preventing their deminers from dealing with chemical weapons,
and would address this issue by providing deminers capable of
disarming such weapons during their next rotation. Smigolova
said the Czechs' final caveat, that their troops in Feyzabad
not participate in counter-narcotics operations, was a
reflection of the policy of that PRT's German leadership. She
said any removal of that caveat by the Germans would be
followed by the Czechs.

GRABER